



**JUSTICE CABINET  
DEPARTMENT OF  
JUVENILE JUSTICE  
POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

**REFERENCES:**

**3-JTS-1B-21  
3-JDF-1B-21  
3-JCRF-1B-17  
1-JDTP-1B-19  
1-JBC-1B-19  
4-JCF-6D-06**

**CHAPTER: Administration**

**AUTHORITY: KRS 15A.065**

**SUBJECT: Code of Conduct**

**POLICY NUMBER: DJJ 104**

**TOTAL PAGES: 4**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/01/2014**

**APPROVAL: Bob D. Hayter**

**, COMMISSIONER**

**I. POLICY**

Staff, volunteers, interns, and contract personnel shall conduct themselves in a professional manner. All persons shall be aware that their personal conduct reflects upon the integrity of the agency and its ability to provide services to youth.

**II. APPLICABILITY**

This policy shall apply to all staff, volunteers, interns, and contract personnel of the Department of Juvenile Justice. This policy shall apply to contract facilities and programs.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

Refer to Chapter 100.

**IV. PROCEDURES**

- A. Staff shall arrive and leave work at scheduled times as determined by their supervisor.
- B. Staff shall perform their work assignments competently and in a professional manner. It is the responsibility of each staff to know and act in accordance with department policy and procedures.
- C. Staff are required to obey the lawful order or directive of a supervisor. If the order or directive conflicts with an order or directive previously issued by another supervisor, the staff shall make the supervisor aware of the conflict. If the supervisor does not alter the order or directive, the most recent order shall stand and the responsibility shall be assigned to the supervisor issuing the most recent order.
- D. Staff shall remain in their assigned working areas during working hours. Staff shall not disturb or interrupt others at their working areas or prevent other staff from carrying out their duties.

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- E. Staff are prohibited from entertaining friends or family on the premises of any DJJ office or program except during appropriate scheduled and approved events.
- F. Loud, abusive, or profane language and boisterous and unprofessional conduct shall not be tolerated. Staff shall refrain from making comments that are critical of colleagues or the agency.
- G. State property and resources or items purchased with Youth Activities Funds shall not be utilized by staff or others for personal use.
- H. Staff shall be prohibited from purchasing products for personal use from the agency's contracted vendors at the reduced agency rate.
- I. Staff shall also be prohibited from using the DJJ procurement card to make purchases of any kind for personal use.
- J. Staff shall only accept gifts that are allowable under the Executive Branch Ethics Code of Ethics.
- K. Donations made to offices or programs, including money, property, or material goods shall not be accepted by individual staff without authorization of the superintendent or district supervisors. Donations of money, property, and material goods shall be properly recorded.
- L. All shall be truthful in correspondence and interactions with other DJJ staff, youth, parents, outside agencies, investigators, and in the completion of any type of work-related written documentation (computer-based, hand-written, or typed).
- M. Items deemed to be contraband shall be prohibited in DJJ facilities and offices. No one shall transport contraband of any kind into a DJJ facility.
- N. Theft of any state property, including, linens, clothing, supplies, or equipment is prohibited.
- O. Cell phones shall be prohibited in areas of programs occupied by youth. All persons are prohibited from allowing youth to use a personal cell phone in any part of the facility. In areas where cell phones are allowed, the use shall not disturb or interrupt staff at their working areas or prevent staff from carrying out their duties.
- P. Staff are prohibited from sleeping, or giving an appearance of sleeping, while on duty. Sleeping on duty may result in disciplinary action up to, and including dismissal. Exception, staff assisting in emergency situations and unable to return home shall be provided sleeping and leisure areas separate from youth residential areas.
- Q. Staff shall not be on the premises except during working hours unless approved by their immediate supervisor.
- R. All persons shall be prohibited from having sexual or intimate contact while on department owned or leased property, or in a state vehicle..
- S. In accordance with KRS 237.110(13), KRS 237.110(14) and KRS 237.115(1), staff are prohibited from possession of firearms, or any other

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deadly weapon as defined in KRS 500.080(4), at any program which houses delinquent youth and in any state vehicle or while transporting DJJ youth.

- T. All persons are prohibited from engaging in unwelcome written, verbal, or physical conduct that either degrades, shows hostility, or aversion towards a youth on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, or genetic information.
- U. Staff shall protect the individual safety of youth and themselves through the use of approved controlling techniques utilizing no more than the absolute amount of force necessary to diffuse a confrontational situation. Staff shall only use controlling techniques in which they have been certified by the Division of Professional Development.
- V. All persons shall take appropriate precautions in dealing with youth to prevent allegations of inappropriate verbal communication, written communications, sexual contact or abuse of any type.
- W. Abuse or other mistreatment of youth in the care or custody of the department shall not be tolerated. Staff abusing youth shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal under 101 KAR 1:345. All persons suspected of abuse are subject to investigation and prosecution under all applicable laws.
- X. All persons shall act in a manner that provides youth with a positive role model.
- Y. All persons shall be expected to maintain a professional relationship with youth at all times. The following rules help delineate this relationship and prevent complications in treatment of youth.
- Z. All staff are prohibited from the following actions:
  1. Selling or loaning personal belongings to youth or youth's representative;
  2. Entering into a business relationship or financial transaction with youth or the representatives of a youth;
  3. Giving special privileges to a youth, unless privileges are earned by the youth as part of the treatment plan;
  4. Accepting a bribe or payment from a youth or the representatives of a youth for special services rendered to them;
  5. Lending money to a youth or the representatives of a youth;
  6. Entering into an intimate or romantic relationship or having sexual contact with an individual who is currently under the custody, care, or supervision of DJJ. (reference KRS 510.020 (3)(e) regarding consent); or
  7. Having an intimate or romantic relationship with a juvenile that has been in the direct custody, care, and supervision of that employee or

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in a facility where the employee worked while the juvenile was in custody, for a minimum of ten (10) years after the juvenile has been officially released from DJJ.

- AA. DJJ staff are persons holding a position of authority and special trust as defined in KRS 532.045. DJJ prohibits any staff, regardless of his or her age, from subjecting anyone under the custody, care, or supervision of DJJ, with whom he or she comes into contact as a result of his or her position, to sexual contact.
- BB. Staff shall fully cooperate with and shall not interfere with any investigation conducted by the Internal Investigation Branch (IIB), a DJJ Supervisor, or Ombudsman, subject to Federal and State constitutional protections.
  - 1. Staff shall provide a written or verbal statement in a departmental investigation or when directed by a supervisor. Failure to provide a written statement as requested shall result in a disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.
  - 2. Staff shall not discuss any active or inactive investigation with anyone other than IIB staff or a DJJ Ombudsman. Exceptions to this may be made under the direct authorization of the DJJ Commissioner's Office.

## **V. MONITORING MECHANISM**

Administrative Managers and supervisors shall monitor staff conduct for adherence to this policy on a day-to-day basis.